

House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

Rep. Urban: Legislature Authorizes Allocations For Stonington, Mystic Facilities



HARTFORD-On Wednesday, June 30, the House of Representatives gave final legislative approval to a bonding package that includes funding for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center in Stonington and Mystic Area Shelter and Hospitality Center in Mystic. The House of Representatives approved the legislation in a 117-14 vote. The state Senate had approved it several hours earlier in a 27-6 vote. Senate Bill 2003 now goes to Governor M. Jodi Rell for final approval.

SB 2003 authorizes \$50,000 for renovations to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center in Fiscal Year 2005-2006 and \$50,000 for renovations to the Mystic Area Shelter and Hospitality Center in Fiscal Year 2006-2007. Both projects must also receive approval of the State Bond Commission before funding is delivered to the organizations.

The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center offers a number of services for local Seniors, as well as programs for youth and families and transportation for Seniors and the disabled. The facility is also available for regular meetings of local organizations. The facility is located on Chase Street in Pawcatuck.

The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center does tremendous work in our communities and it is such a pleasure to advocate for them and bring them some help from Hartford," said Rep. Urban. "Every time I go to a function there, whether it is packing baskets for Thanksgiving or talking to our seniors I am always struck by the atmosphere of dedication and joy."

"The possibility of receiving \$50,000 grant renovations, through the good efforts of our state representative, Diana Urban, is very exciting!" said Vicki Anderson, Executive Director of the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. "It would ensure that needed improvements to our building would be possible. As you know, the cost of construction is very expensive and many times, due to limited funds, many necessary inclusions in the project, have to be eliminated. It's only through the collaborative efforts of state, local and federal agencies that there is the possibility of senior programming enhancements for the residents of Stonington and North Stonington. Diana Urban is a great friend of the senior population and of the Neighborhood Center. We appreciate all of her hard work!"

The Mystic Area Shelter and Hospitality Center provides temporary housing for homeless families in the greater Mystic area and assists families in finding permanent housing. It currently rents two apartments on Latham Avenue in Mystic for homeless families and in 2004, purchased a house on Ledyard Avenue in Groton to be used as temporary housing.

"Mystic Area Shelter and Hospitality, Inc. (MASH) is thrilled and appreciative at the possibility of state support in furthering the mission of MASH to assist homeless families living in southeastern Connecticut," said Marge Kramer, executive director of MASH.

"I'm happy to work with Representative Urban to secure funding for this facility," said Rep. Lenny Winkler, R-Groton. "There are a large number of homeless families in the area and anything we can do to assist them by providing temporary housing and finding permanent housing benefits the community."

"It was great to work with Representative Winkler to bring assistance to this organization that is committed to helping people that find themselves homeless and in need," said Rep. Urban. "When a community works together, we make a stronger, safer place for our children and our families. Now the community needs to become involved in the coming months to help make Governor Rell aware how important these projects and the benefits they provide, so that they can receive final approval by the Bond Commission."